



**March 28, 2023**

**RE: Support for CHW provisions in HF 2930 - Sec. 50. [144.1462]**

Dear Chair Liebling, Vice-Chair Bierman and Members of Health Finance Committee

As Minnesota organizations we write to express our support for HF 2930 that will educate, strengthen, equip, evaluate, and grow the Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are a strong health equity workforce who serve as liaisons between community members, health care and social service systems. CHWs work in other systems such as public safety, public schools, childcare, elder services and many more. CHWs are trusted and trained members of the communities they serve and support for this culturally responsive workforce is an investment in Minnesota communities. Research indicates CHWs show a return on investment of at least three dollars for every dollar invested in them. They address the social determinants of health, work from a trauma-informed perspective, and provide the support needed so others on the health care team can work at the top of their licenses. CHWs will help grow and diversify Minnesota's health care and public health workforce, now facing serious shortages and enormous stress.

CHWs are uniquely positioned to improve health outcomes and health equity within our state. This funding is a first step that will lead to increased healthcare access, lower healthcare costs and improved health outcomes for your constituents facing health inequities and barriers to care. This bill will further support and grow the CHW workforce.

For two decades Minnesota has been a national leader in the education and use of CHW strategies. Organizations in over 17 states across the country have adopted the Alliance's competency based CHW curriculum and model. As the voice of Minnesota CHWs and allies, we stand ready to maintain this leadership.

Sincerely,

Angela Fields, CHW, Associate Executive Director

[MN CHW Alliance](https://mnchwalliance.org)

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The following organizations respectfully urge you to support funding for CHWs in Minnesota:

- American Indian Cancer Foundation
- Children's Hospital
- Doctors for Health Equity
- Hennepin Healthcare
- Hue-MAN Partnership

- Mayo, Mankato
- Minneapolis Health Department
- Minnesota Alliance of Community Health Workers (MNCHWA) Board of Directors
- Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers (MNACHC)
- Minnesota Public Health Association
- NAMI Minnesota
- Native American Community Clinic (NACC)
- Pathways to Wellness, Ely
- Pillsbury United Communities
- Portico Healthnet
- Sanford, Worthington
- Trellis
- Twin Cities Community Health Worker Hub
- University of Minnesota, Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC)
- WellShare International
- Winona Community Hub
- Winona Health